



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Media Contact: Carla Harris:
(804) 726-7107

More than 1,000 children wait for a home, every day of the week

Richmond – Governor Bob McDonnell has [proclaimed](#) November as Adoption Awareness Month in Virginia. The Commonwealth is celebrating significant gains in the number of children adopted from foster care into permanent and loving homes. Still, more than 1,400 children across the Commonwealth are waiting for a “forever family.” To introduce them to prospective parents, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has added a special feature to its website for November.

Borrowing from the famed poem *Monday's Child*, VDSS is featuring a different child each weekday during National Adoption Month. Children waiting to be adopted are often referred to as *Wednesday's Child* from the poem.

“All children deserve a safe and caring home with a loving family,” said VDSS Commissioner Martin D. Brown. “Virginia has made great strides to place more of our children in permanent homes, but there is still work to be done. Featuring children waiting to be adopted on our website makes it easier for prospective parents to get to know the children and, hopefully, find room in their hearts and homes for one or more of them.”

The number of children adopted from Virginia’s foster care system has increased from less than 500 in State Fiscal Year 2003 to 706 in State Fiscal Year 2010. However, many more Virginia children are still waiting for a place to call home; currently 1,407 are in foster care with the goal of adoption.

“Research indicates that children do better when raised in families. Their future success depends on our continuing work to find caring adults to provide them with a nurturing and permanent family connection,” said VDSS Director of Family Services Paul McWhinney.

In addition to the daily feature, those considering adoption should use "[Meet the Virginia Kids](#)," a user-friendly database of hundreds of waiting children found exclusively on the VDSS [website](#). The comprehensive database can be searched by age, region, gender and other demographics.

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Interviews are available upon request. For media inquiries, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov. The general public should contact their local department of social services with questions or for more information.